

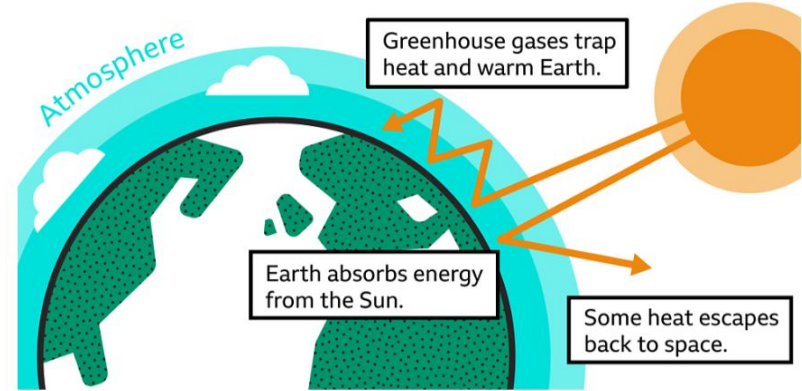


# Year 4 Summer - Why must we look after our planet?

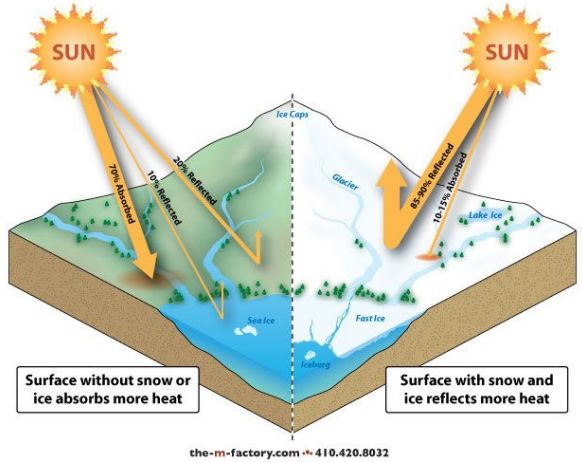
## Key Vocabulary

<b>Adaptation</b>	A special feature or behaviour that helps a plant or animal survive.
<b>Environment</b>	The place where a living thing lives, including weather and habitat.
<b>Habitat</b>	The natural home of a plant or animal.
<b>Global warming</b>	When Earth's temperature rises over time.
<b>Climate change</b>	Long-term changes to the world's weather and temperature.
<b>Sea level</b>	The height of the sea's surface - it can rise if polar ice melts.
<b>Albedo effect</b>	How much sunlight is reflected off Earth's surface.
<b>Reflect</b>	To bounce light or heat back.
<b>Absorb</b>	To take in heat or light.
<b>Ecosystem</b>	A community of plants, animals, and their environment working together.
<b>Interdependence</b>	When living things rely on each other to survive.
<b>Extinct</b>	When a type of animal or plant no longer exists.
<b>Deforestation</b>	Cutting down lots of trees in one place.
<b>Greenhouse gases</b>	Gases like carbon dioxide that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere.
<b>Activist</b>	Someone who works to change things for the better.

- Greenhouse gases trap heat in the atmosphere, warming Earth.
- Cars, factories and cutting trees increase carbon dioxide.
- Ice at the poles is melting, which causes sea levels to rise.
- Rising sea levels can flood homes, beaches, and animal habitats.



- ### Why is climate change a problem?
- Hot places are getting even hotter and drier, which means more heatwaves, droughts, and wildfires.
  - This can lead to more extreme weather like storms, hurricanes, and floods.
  - It is also causing ocean water to expand, leading to rises in sea levels.
  - Warmer waters, along with warmer air, also leads to melting ice.



The albedo effect is about how well a surface reflects sunlight. Lighter surfaces, like snow, reflect more sunlight and heat, while darker surfaces, like asphalt, absorb more sunlight and heat. This difference in reflection affects how warm or cold a place gets.

